

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (new) A medical device, comprising:

a tubular proximal shaft section having a proximal end and a distal end;

a plurality of slits defined in the proximal shaft section;

a distal shaft section attached to the proximal shaft section, the distal shaft section including a braid attached to the distal end of the proximal shaft section; and

a sheath disposed over the proximal and distal shaft sections.

20. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the distal shaft section is deflectable.

21. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein proximal shaft section has a longitudinal axis and wherein the slits are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

22. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the medical device has a transition in stiffness from the proximal shaft section to the distal shaft section.

23. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein a greater number of slits are disposed near the distal end of the proximal shaft section than near the proximal end of the proximal shaft section.

24. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the number of slits per unit length is greater near the distal end of the proximal shaft section than near the proximal end of the proximal shaft section.

25. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the slits have a first depth near the proximal end of the proximal shaft section and a second depth near the distal end of the proximal shaft section, and wherein the second depth is deeper than the first depth.

26. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the proximal shaft section is a nickel-titanium alloy tube.

27. (new) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the braid partially overlaps with the distal end of the proximal shaft section.

28. (new) A medical device, comprising:
a proximal shaft portion having a proximal junction and a distal junction;
a plurality of slits defined in the proximal shaft portion;
a braid attached to the distal junction and extending distally therefrom; and
a sheath disposed over the proximal shaft portion and the braid.

29. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the braid defines a distal shaft portion and wherein the distal shaft portion is deflectable.

30. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the proximal shaft portion has a longitudinal axis and wherein the slits are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

31. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the braid defines a distal shaft portion, and wherein the medical device has a transition in stiffness from the proximal shaft portion to the distal shaft portion.

32. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein a greater number of slits are disposed near the distal junction of the proximal shaft portion than near the proximal junction of the proximal shaft portion.

33. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the number of slits per unit length is greater near the distal junction of the proximal shaft portion than near the proximal junction of the proximal shaft portion.

34. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the slits have a first depth near the proximal junction of the proximal shaft portion and a second depth near the distal junction of the proximal shaft portion, and wherein the second depth is deeper than the first depth.

35. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the proximal shaft portion is a nickel-titanium alloy tube.

36. (new) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the braid partially overlaps with the distal junction of the proximal shaft portion.

37. (new) A medical device, comprising:
a slotted tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis;
a braid attached to the distal end of the tubular member and extending distally therefrom;
and
a sheath disposed over the tubular member and the braid so as to define a catheter shaft.

38. (new) The medical device of claim 37, wherein the slots defined are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

39. (new) The medical device of claim 37, wherein the slots vary in number, location, frequency, size, or depth so that the tubular member varies in stiffness between the proximal end and the distal end.

40. (new) A medical device, comprising:
a catheter shaft including a proximal shaft portion and a distal shaft portion;

the proximal shaft portion having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis, and a plurality of slots defined therein that are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;

the distal shaft portion including a braid that is attached to and partially overlaps with the distal end of the proximal shaft portion and extends distally from the distal end of the proximal shaft portion; and

a sheath disposed over the catheter shaft.

41. (new) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the slots vary in number, location, frequency, size, or depth so that the proximal shaft portion varies in stiffness between the proximal end and the distal end.